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GOVERNOR OWENS PROCLAIMS MAY 14 AS "WIND ENERGY DAY"

DENVER, CO May 13, 2004 – Governor Bill Owens has proclaimed May 14, 2004, as "Colorado Wind Energy Day," to commemorate the grand opening of the Colorado Green windfarm, in Prowers County, and to recognize the role and contributions of wind energy in Colorado.

Colorado Green, which will be dedicated in a ceremony in Lamar, is a 162-megawatt windfarm. It is the fifth-largest windfarm in the nation, and alone will supply power to over 75,000 homes. Colorado, with a total of 223 megawatts of wind power, serving nearly 103,000 households, is now the eighth largest producer of wind in the nation.

Colorado receives more than just power from wind energy. Wind energy development offers much needed economic and income opportunities to rural and agricultural areas. Additionally, wind energy helps consumers and businesses fight rising energy costs, while increasing energy security.

"Affordable, reliable power is essential to consumers and businesses in Colorado. The Colorado Green windfarm is an example of how Colorado uses its abundant natural resources to provide power to its citizens," said Governor Owens.

Coloradans are long time supporters of wind energy. Colorado has one of the country's most successful voluntary "green pricing" programs. Through the state's various investor-owned, municipal and rural electric utilities, more than 40,000 consumers and businesses statewide receive wind power.

Colorado is ranked 11th in the nation for wind energy resources, making it a natural location for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden which employs over 1,000 people. NREL is the world's leading laboratory in the research, development, and demonstration of wind energy technologies.

The Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) supports wind through education and outreach programs. OEMC and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently hosted the second biennial "Colorado Wind and Distributed Energy Conference." Over 300 attendees learned about wind energy development from national and regional experts. OEMC has a wind anemometer loan program, created to help land developers assess wind energy feasibility. Also, OEMC and DOE released a Colorado Wind Map, providing assistance in locating likely placement of wind turbines for small and medium-sized developments.

To learn more about wind, visit the OEMC Web site: <http://www.state.co.us/oemc>

About the Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC):
The primary objective of Colorado's lead state agency on energy efficiency and conservation issues is to serve the people of Colorado through demonstration and education of viable, real-world solutions to the problem of reducing our reliance on foreign energy.

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